

REMARKS

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

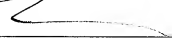
In the Office Action, Claims 16-19, 25-39, and 41-46 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,433,960 to Meyers (*Meyers*). For at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully submit that the obviousness rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Meyers does not teach or suggest a composition consisting essentially of a stand alone pullulan-free edible film as in the claimed invention. *Meyers* requires structural support, i.e. gum, for its film coating. In contrast to *Meyers*, Applicants have surprisingly found and clearly indicated the basic and novel characteristics of the claimed invention in the specification at, for example, page 8, lines 26-29, to be a stand alone film that is self-supported requiring no support structure. A support structure as is taught by *Meyers* would materially affect the basic and novel characteristics and properties of the claimed invention. For example, the composition taught in *Meyers* does not quickly dissolve in the oral cavity of an individual as in the claimed invention. Therefore, *Meyers* does not teach or suggest a composition consisting essentially of a stand alone pullulan-free edible film. Thus, a composition consisting essentially of a stand alone pullulan-free edible film would not have been obvious to one of skill in the art.

Claim 40 stands rejected as being unpatentable over *Meyers* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,948,430 to Zerbe et al. (*Zerbe*). Applicants respectfully submit that *Zerbe* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Meyers* mentioned above, and, therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,
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